

Europe from Fennoscandia to Iberia suggests an old specialised branch of *Cyrnus* on the way to becoming extinct. It is interesting therefore that this caddisfly has now turned up in Ireland. On the continent, it has been recorded from ponds and lakes (Nybom, 1960). Since Ireland abounds in these habitats, it is hoped that this unusual insect will be taken at many more Irish stations.

Voucher specimens have been deposited in the National Museum of Ireland and in the British Museum (Natural History).

### Acknowledgements

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## Notes and Observations

CURIOUS BEHAVIOUR OF THE GREY DAGGER (*ACRONICTA PSI* L.) OR DARK DAGGER (*A. TRIDENS* D. & S.). — A friend, Mr. M. K. Swales, the biology master at Denstone College, Uttoxeter, Staffs., telephoned me recently with an account of the behaviour of a moth he and his family had noticed in the garden and I asked him to write it down for possible inclusion in *The Record*. The moth I had no difficulty in identifying from his description as *A. psi* — or, of course, *A. tridens*. Mr. Swales writes, 10th July, 1977, as follows:

“This afternoon, we observed what you confirm to be a grey dagger moth behaving in a most interesting way on the south-facing wall of our house, which is built of two colours of sandstone — “white” (grey in the weathered state) and “red” (pink). When first seen, the moth was on grey stone and remarkably well camouflaged. However, the wall, being in full sunlight at between 3.00 and 4.00 p.m., was presumably too warm for the moth to stay in one place, so it moved quite

frequently (every two or three minutes) and then remained motionless and camouflaged as before. However, before long it moved off the grey stone on to a pink one where it was at once more conspicuous. On this stone, it moved more frequently (about every half minute) and was quite soon off that stone on to the mortar between it and the next red one where it remained stationary for the longer period of time; but by further intermittent movement it reached a shaded place, still on the mortar and well camouflaged, where it remained motionless and we left it. We observed all this from a distance of over a metre and therefore trust the moth's movement was in no way influenced by our presence."

Mr. Swales adds that he wonders if these observations indicate an ability on the part of the moth to detect when it is camouflaged and when it is not, and regrets he had no means of measuring the surface temperature of the stone. — R. G. WARREN, Wood Ridings, 32 Whitmore Road, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 8AP.

SOME LESS COMMON MOTHS TAKEN IN CAERNARVONSHIRE. — The following moths were among the less common species taken by operating a Robinson mercury-vapour trap almost nightly during the period June 1973 to December 1975 at Capelulo, Gwynedd (at the foot of the Sychnant Pass). Map. ref.: 23/745767. Altitude: 250 ft. Vice-county: 49 (Caerns.).

If only one or two individuals of a species were taken during this period, this is indicated by (1) or (2). Two asterisks denote first record for Caerns. One asterisk denotes rarely recorded in Caerns.

\**Polyloca ridens* (Fab.) (1); *Rhodometra sacraria* (L.); *Larentia clavaria* (Haw.) (1); *Coenotephria salicata* ssp. *latentaria* (Curt.); *Triphosa dubitata* (L.) (1); *Perizoma bifaciata* (Haw.) (1); *Venusia cambrica* (Curt.); \**Lobophora halterata* (Hufn.) (1); *Acasis viretata* (Hübner.) (2); *Abraxas sylvata* (Scop.); *Selenia lunularia* (Hübner.); *Menophra abruptaria* (Thunb.) (1); *Dyscia fagaria* (Thunb.); *Diacrisia sannio* (L.) (1); *Agrotis trux* (Hübner.); *Eugnorisma depuncta* (L.); *Standfussiana lucerneae* (L.) (1); *Graphiphora augur* (Fab.) (1); *Diarsia dahlia* (Hübner.); *Xestia ashworthii* (Doubl.); \*\**X. rhomboidea* (Esp.) (6); *X. castanea* (Esp.); *X. agathina* (Dup.); *Naenia typica* (L.); *Hadena confusa* (Hufn.); *Panolis flammea* (D. & S.) (1); *Dasytopia templi* (Thunb.); \**Parastichtis suspecta* (Hübner.); \**Xanthia gilvago* (D. & S.); \**Mormo maura* (L.) (at sugar); *Cosmia affinis* (L.) (2); \**Apamea characterica* (Hübner.) (2); *A. scolopacina* (Esp.) (1); *Rhizedra lutosae* (Hübner.); *Auto-grapha bractea* (D. & S.); \**Syngrapha interrogationis* (L.) (1).

The following is a similar list for the grounds of the Zoology Department, University College of North Wales, Bangor, Gwynedd for the period June to October 1974. Map ref.: 23/577719. Altitude: 100 ft. Vice-county: 49.

\*\**Tethea ocellaris* (L.) (1); *Coenotephria salicata* ssp. *latentaria* (Curt.); *Semiothisa wauaria* (L.) (1); *Agrotis trux* (Hübner.); *Standfussiana lucerneae* (L.) (1); *Graphiphora augur*